



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sole Applicant: David Tropp

Title: **METHOD OF IMPROVING AIRLINE LUGGAGE INSPECTION**

Serial No. 10/706500

**PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL FOR INVENTIONS THAT
(A) COUNTER TERRORISM AND (B) BASED ON INFRINGEMENT**

January 28, 2004

Mail Stop Petitions
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I, Steven Horowitz, Esq, am registered to practice before the USPTO, reg. no. 31, 768. I was appointed by Applicant Tropp to prosecute the above application. See accompanying Declaration and Power of Attorney.

Applicant hereby respectfully petitions that the above application be made special and advanced out of turn for examination under MPEP Sec. 708.02 and pursuant to 37 CFR Sec. 1.102(d) because of (i) Inventions for Countering Terrorism and (ii) based on Infringement.

With respect to the first ground, the instant invention addresses the problem caused by the Transportation Security Administration's recently enacted policy of breaking into passenger luggage for example by clipping the passenger's lock on the luggage. The policy creates luggage that is damaged and is no longer secure. This actually creates a security problem in the course of trying to solve one.

Terrorists can compromise workers at the airports who inspect luggage. Accordingly, the piece of luggage that has been clipped by the TSA is no longer secure and is subject to the risk that a terrorist in the area of the airport luggage screening personnel - as a worker or because he

penetrated the secure area - can insert a bomb or other hazardous material into the luggage by easily opening it since it not only does not have a lock anymore and its outward appearance, i.e. a damaged lock, may advertise that it has been tampered with and be easily opened.

The present invention is a method of improving airline luggage inspection that solves the above problem by using special locks that advertise to the TSA that the TSA has a master key for that special lock. This makes the TSA realize that it does not need to clip the lock or otherwise break into the luggage.

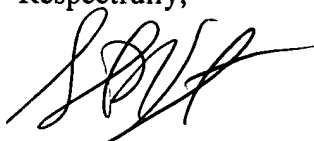
The second ground for this Petition to Make Special is that based upon the information I have seen, there is a method in use that would infringe a patent granted on the patent application in this case. A rigid comparison of this method with the claims of the instant patent application has been made. In my opinion, at least some of the claims are unquestionably infringed.

I have caused a thorough search of the prior art to be made and I enclose a copy of each of the references found from that search that I consider most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims. I also note that for completeness I have included in the group of enclosed references a printed publication in the Wall Street Journal dated August 20, 2003 that facially could be considered possible prior art since its date precedes the filing date of the application. However, during the course of the prosecution, Applicant intends to submit a section 1.131 affidavit antedating this reference and showing that Applicant completed the invention and reduced it to practice well before the date of that printed publication.

The \$130 Petition fee accompanies this Petition.

It is respectfully requested that this Petition to Make Special be granted.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SPV' or similar, written over a horizontal line.



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